

WorkLife

A National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Initiative

Good health is a goal shared by workers, their families, and employers. Worksites present an opportunity to implement programs and policies to prevent disease and injury and promote health. Numerous case studies and anecdotal reports provide support for the concepts that workplace conditions can promote worker health, and healthy workers are good for business. Nevertheless, most worksite programs have not been subjected to rigorous evaluation, and the validity of generalizing from limited experience is far from certain. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, in concert with many partners and stakeholders, has committed to addressing these and related issues through the WorkLife Initiative (WLI).

Vision

Safe and healthier workers in workplaces that protect, sustain, and promote health and wellbeing.

The WLI envisions workplaces that are free of recognized hazards, with health-promoting and sustaining policies, programs, and practices; and employees with ready access to effective programs and services that protect their health, safety, and wellbeing.

To pursue this vision, the WLI seeks to better understand and promote the kinds of work environments, programs, and policies that result in healthy, productive workers with reduced disease and injury care needs and costs.

Programs attentive to health threats from work that also support reduction or control of out-of-work health risk are a means to this end.

The ultimate goal of WLI is to sustain and improve worker health through better work-based programs, policies, practices, and benefits.



The WLI Reflects Core NIOSH Principles

- Protecting workers from exposure to health threats and hazard at work. This is fundamental to the work of NIOSH and the foundation of the WLI.
- Fighting health disparities. Disease and injury both from work and from out of work exposures are unevenly distributed throughout the workforce. We seek to better understand how work factors serve modify risk for developing a range of health outcomes and to understand the workplace interventions that will reduce risk.
- Forming productive partnerships. The WLI relies on productive partnerships for research, training, and communication of workplace-relevant health protective and enhancing recommendations. Partnerships are critical to translate research findings into practice.
- Conducting and supporting high quality science as the basis for health protective policy.

Aims

- To encourage and support rigorous evaluation of integrative and comprehensive approaches to work and health.
- To promote adoption of policies and practices proven to protect and improve worker health.
- To motivate trans-disciplinary collaboration among investigators focused on preserving and improving the health of people who work
- To overcome the traditional separation of the occupational health and health promotion professional communities.

Focus

- Developing and promoting a sector-based research agenda
- Building on new and established partnerships to disseminate information about proven and promising programs, policies, and practices. Developing and disseminating “Essential Elements of Effective Worksite Programs”—practical, evidence-based guidance for improved workplace programs.
- Supporting and expanding multi-disciplinary research, training, and education.

For more information go to <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/worklife>

